

# United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

June 4, 2010

The Honorable Byron Dorgan  
US Senate  
Chairman  
Committee on Appropriations  
Energy and Water  
Development Subcommittee  
186 Dirksen  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Bob Bennett  
US Senate  
Ranking Minority Member  
Committee on Appropriations  
Energy and Water  
Development Subcommittee  
186 Dirksen  
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Chairman Dorgan and Ranking Member Bennett:

We respectfully request that you include \$416 million for decommissioning and decontamination (D&D) activities for the Department of Energy's (DOE) Portsmouth Gaseous Diffusion Plant (PORTS) in the Fiscal Year 2011 Energy and Water Development appropriations bill as recommended in the President's federal budget.

The PORTS site began producing enriched uranium in 1954 in response to the nation's need for fissionable material for military reactors and nuclear weapons production. In 2001, the decision was made to consolidate operations at PORTS's sister site in Paducah, Kentucky. This left the region without its largest employer. The devastating economic impact of the plant closure is still felt today.

Maintaining the Department's accelerated cleanup schedule will put more people to work in a community that has been hard hit by unemployment. Just last month, Masco Cabinetry announced that it was closing its production facility in Waverly, Ohio a few miles north of PORTS and eliminating 1,216 full time jobs. Before the closure, the region was already facing unemployment rates in the high teens. This leaves the PORTS site cleanup and its future reuse as the major economic engine in the region.

The FY 2011 for request for PORTS supports ongoing cleanup efforts and increased disposal of low-level waste associated with those activities. Accelerated D&D activities currently scheduled for PORTS are consistent with the government's long term plan of cleaning up the smaller DOE nuclear weapons sites to gain long term life cycle cost savings, and will accelerate the schedule for potential re-use of the site, such as for defense purposes or as a community development initiative. These savings can then be transferred to the larger DOE sites, saving taxpayers billions of dollars.

Thank you in advance for your consideration.

Sincerely,



Sherrod Brown  
US Senator



George Voinovich  
US Senator